

PREFACE

DCF 252
LICENSING RULES FOR DAY CAMPS
Effective January 1, 2009

Section 48.65, Stats., requires that persons operating child care centers which provide care and supervision for 4 or more children under age 7 years for less than 24 hours a day be licensed. The statutes also require the Department of Children and Families to establish rules which must be met in order to qualify for a license and which protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of the children in the care of the child care center.

Chapter DCF 252 is the rule governing Day Camps, which provide care and supervision to 4 or more children three years of age and older in a seasonal program oriented to the out-of-doors for periods less than 24 hours a day. There are also other rules governing the out-of-home care of children. DCF 250 is the rule for Family Child Care Centers where care and supervision is provided for between 4 and 8 children under age 7. DCF 251 is the rule for Group Child Care Centers where care and supervision is provided for 9 or more children under age 7.

Licensing rules should not be confused with certification for public funding of child care providers who care for between 1 and 3 children under age 7.

Clearly, the fact that a day camp is licensed in no way diminishes the responsibility of parents for vigilance in ensuring that their children are receiving care which protects their physical well-being and encourages healthy intellectual and emotional development.

Whenever the rules in this chapter indicate that materials such as an application for licensure, a request for exception to a specific rule or a complaint about a center are to be sent to or requested from the Department, please refer to Appendix A which identifies the appropriate regional licensing office serving the county in which the center is located.

There is a header on each page that contains the rule cite for the section of the rule beginning on that page. A table of contents and an index are also included in this document as are appendices that contain key statutes related to the day camp rules and a copy of DHS 12 (administrative rules governing caregiver background checks).

This publication may be duplicated. It is available from the Department's web page <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/Index.HTM>.

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